

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A process for forming a guide wire for use in a medical procedure, comprising:  
  
forming a male end at an extremity of a first elongated member formed of a first continuous material[[,]];  
  
forming a female end at an extremity of a second elongated member, the second elongated member and the female end being formed of a second continuous material[[,]]; and  
  
permanently securing the male end of the first elongated member within the female end of the second elongated member.
2. (Original): The process of claim 1 wherein formation of the female end comprises forming a hole by electrical discharge machining.
3. (Original): The process of claim 1 wherein formation of the female end comprises forming a hole by laser drilling.
4. (Original): The process of claim 1 wherein the first continuous material is different from the second continuous material.

5. (Original): The process of claim 1 wherein the first and second continuous materials comprise a biocompatible material selected from the group consisting of metals, polymers and composites.

6. (Original): The process of claim 5 wherein the group consists of stainless steel and Nitinol.

7. (Original): The process of claim 1 wherein securing the male end to the female end is selected from the group consisting of soldering, welding and gluing.

8. (Original): The process of claim 1 wherein forming the male end comprises plunge grinding.

9. (Currently amended): A guide wire for use in a medical procedure, comprising:

a first elongated member having an extremity and a male end formed at [[an]] the extremity, the first elongated member formed of a first continuous material;

~~permanently secured within a female end at an extremity of a second elongated member~~ a second elongated member including a second extremity, the second extremity of the second elongated member including a female end, the second elongated member and the female end being formed of a second continuous material[[,]];

wherein the male end ~~which~~ is permanently secured within [[a]] the female end of a second elongated member.

10. (Previously presented): The guide wire of claim 9 wherein the female end is formed by electrical discharge machining.

11. (Previously presented): The guide wire of claim 9 wherein the female end is formed by laser drilling.

12. (Previously presented): The guide wire of claim 9 wherein the first and second continuous materials comprise biocompatible materials selected from the group consisting of metals, polymers and composites.

13. (Previously presented): The guide wire of claim 12 wherein the group consists of stainless steel and Nitinol.

14. (Previously presented): The guide wire of claim 9 wherein the male end is secured to the female end by a bond selected from the group consisting of solder, weld and glue.

15. (Previously presented): The guide wire of claim 9 wherein the male end is formed by plunge grinding.

16 – 17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:  
an elongated proximal core portion including a distal extremity and having a female end disposed at [[a]] the distal extremity, [[of]] the proximal core portion and female end formed from a first continuous material;

a distal core portion having a male end disposed at [[a]] the proximal extremity;  
and

a flexible body member;

~~of distal core portion, with wherein~~ the male end is permanently secured within the female end~~[[;]]~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ the flexible body member is disposed about and secured to the distal core portion.

19. (Currently amended): A process for constructing a guidewire; comprising:  
providing an elongated proximal core portion including a distal extremity and  
having a male end disposed at ~~[[a]]~~ the distal extremity ~~[[of]]~~, the proximal core portion  
being formed from a first continuous material including stainless steel;

providing a distal core portion including a proximal extremity and having a female  
end with a predetermined depth disposed at ~~[[a]]~~ the proximal extremity, the distal core  
portion and female end being formed from a second continuous material including a  
nickel-titanium alloy, ~~with the male end;~~

permanently ~~secured~~ securing the male end within the female end; and

disposing ~~[[a]]~~ the flexible body member about ~~and secured to~~ the distal core  
portion.